THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) During 2003-04 a total number of 24, 242 cases pertaining to cruelty towards animals have been registered under Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960;

(b) 312 persons have been prosecuted during 2003-04.

Growth of food processing Industries

1915. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of growth of food processing industries during the last two years of the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the percentage of growth estimated during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the steps taken to realize the estimated growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) According to an estimate, growth fo Food Processing Industries was 7.1% in the last few years of 9th Plan. Growth rate during the 10th Plan in estimated to be 7.3% for a GDP growth of 6%. In order to promote Food Processing Industries, plan schemes have already been implemented to provide financial assistance for establishement and modernization of food processing units, creation of infrastructure, support for R&D, Human Resource Development besides other promotional measures to encourage Development of Food Processing Industries. Forgiving boost to growth of Food Processing Industries, the Government has allowed under Income Tax Act, a deduction of 100% of profit for five years and 25% of profits for the next five years in case of new agro processing industries set up to process, preserve and package fruits and vegetables. Recently, on 28th February, 2005, in Parliament, Government has announced launching of a National Horticulture Mission with an objective to ensure an end-to-end approach for the horticulture sector.